REMARKS

Claims 21-26 were presented for examination. Claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 22. This claim has been cancelled.

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner has taken the position that the specification does not disclose "notify said control circuit that supply of power is started" as recited in claim 22.

The Examiner's position is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 22 recites that the plurality of power supply systems notify said control circuit that supply of power is started.

Claim 21, which is the base claim for the claim 22, specifies that each of the plurality of power supply systems supplies power to a plurality of circuits, and that the control circuit transmits first control signals to said plurality of power supply systems.

As shown, for example, in FIGS. 16-18 and described on pages 27-35 of the specification, the semiconductor device of the present disclosure includes a power supply system 132 for supplying a prescribed voltage.

As disclosed in the specification, "[w]hen the power supply system 132 is enabled to supply the prescribed voltage, the receiving circuit 134 returns a response signal RES to the transmitting circuit 126 and posts the CPU 102 that the command signal CMD and the data signal DAT are receivable." (page 27, line 33 to page 28, line 4). Further, the specification discloses that "[t]he receiving circuit 134 activates the power supply system 132 when receiving the access request signal REQ, and returns the response signal RES to the transmission circuit 126 when the power supply system 132 is activated." (page 29, lines 6-9)

The details of the receiving circuit 134 are shown in FIG. 18 and described on pages 30-35 of the specification. As shown in FIG. 18 and described in the specification, the response signal RES is initiated by power supply signals from the power supply system 132 using differential amplifiers 161-164. Each of the differential amplifiers 161-164 compares the respective power supply signal from the power supply system 132 with the respective internal or reference voltage to produce an output signal when the respective power supply signal reaches a prescribed level (see page 31, line 31 to page 32, line 10).

In response to the output signals from the differential amplifiers 161-164, the AND gate 170 produces an output signal when all power supply circuits 178-181 of the power supply system 132 are ready (page 32, lines 13-16).

In response to the output signal of the AND gate 170, a flip-flop circuit 132 supplies the response signal RES via a driver 154 to the transmission circuit 126 (page 32, lines 16-20). It is noted that the transmission circuit 126 is an element of the claimed control circuit transmitting first control signals to the plurality of power supply systems.

Accordingly, one skilled in the art would understand from the specification that the power supply system 132 through the receiving circuit 134 notifies the transmission circuit 126 that the power supply signals reach prescribed levels, i.e. supply of power is started.

Hence, the specification fully supports the subject matter of claim 22 that recites that the claimed plurality of power supply systems, e.g. power supply system 132, notify the claimed control circuit transmitting first control signals to the plurality of power supply systems, that the supply of power is started.

Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, is not warranted.

Claims 21-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamagata.

To more clearly define the claimed subject matter, independent claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22. In particular, **independent claim 21**, as amended, recites a semiconductor device comprising:

-a plurality of power supply systems each supplying power to a plurality of circuits, and

-a control circuit transmitting first control signals to said plurality of power supply systems.

The plurality of power supply systems receive the first control signals from the control circuit to supply power to a group of desired circuits.

The claim specifies that the plurality of power supply systems notify the control circuit that supply of power is started.

With respect to the notifying the control circuit that supply of power is started (the subject matter of the original claim 22), the Examiner takes the position that the control signals described in col. 47, lines 22-30 of the reference, "are maintained at the same state when the circuit is in stand-by mode". The Examiner concludes that change in one of these signals indicates that the supply of power is started.

The Examiner's assertion is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Considering the paragraph relied upon by the Examiner, Yamagata discloses that in the active cycle of the power supply circuit provided corresponding to the non-selected block, "[c]ontrol signals φccia, φccib, φssia and φssib are maintained at the same states as in the stand-by cycle." (see col. 47, lines 18-24).

As these control signals are not changed in the active cycle, they cannot be used to notify the control circuit that the supply of power is started, as the Examiner asserts.

Moreover, as clear from FIGS. 32 and 33, control signals φccia, φccib, φssia and φssib are signals that control the power supply circuit 700-i. Hence, they are supplied from the control circuit to the power supply circuit, rather than from the power supply circuit to the control circuit. Therefore, they cannot be used for providing any information from the power supply circuit to the control circuit.

Accordingly, the Examiner's position is completely unwarranted. It appears that the Examiner has failed to carefully consider the reference.

Considering the reference, Yamagata discloses the configuration (FIG. 32) in which

switching among a plurality of circuits is performed. According to this circuit configuration,

no signal is supplied from each of power supply circuit 700-n to block selecting signal generating circuit 710. Therefore, one skilled in the art would realize that the power supply

circuit (700-n) is unable to notify the control circuit (710) that power supply is started.

Hence, Yamagata does not disclose the subject matter of the independent claim 21.

Further, **independent claim 24** recites a semiconductor device comprising:

-a substrate in which a circuit exists, and

-a power supply system supplying a potential of said substrate.

The power supply system switches between a first case in which the substrate potential satisfies a first voltage condition in the forward direction with respect to the conductivity of source-drain of a transistor and a second case in which the substrate potential satisfies a second voltage condition of a value smaller than that of the first voltage condition.

The Examiner relies upon FIGS. 32-36 for disclosing the subject matter of claim 24. In particular, the Examiner contends that the "Embodiment 5 from col. 48" discloses the claimed switching of the power supply system.

It is noted that in rejecting a claim under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to point out specifically wherein an applied reference discloses each feature of the claimed invention. ***In re Rijckaert***, 9 F.3rd 1531, 28 USPQ2d 1955 (Fed. Cir. 1993); ***Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GMBH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.***, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481 (Fed. Cir. 1984). It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner did not discharge that burden with respect to the claim 24.

The description of the Embodiment 5 of Yamagata includes columns 48-53. Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to point out specifically wherein the reference discloses the switching of the power supply circuit recited in claim 24.

It is respectfully submitted that Yamagata does not disclose the claimed subject matter. As shown in FIG. 34, the reference discloses a configuration in which the **constant** voltage Vcc is supplied to the substrate. Therefore, by contrast with the subject matter of claim 24, the substrate voltage of the Yamagata reference is not switched.

Hence, the Examiner's rejection of claim 24 is improper.

Dependent claims 23, 25 and 26 are defined over the prior art at least for the reasons presented above in connection with the respective independent claims 21 and 24.

In view of the foregoing, and in summary, claims 21 and 23-26 are considered to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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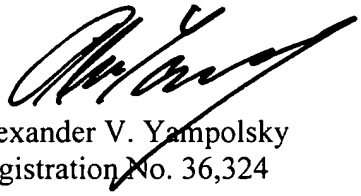

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